

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-8. Canceled

9. (Original): A method of manufacturing a metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising the steps of:

a first step of preparing a negative electrode by applying a paste onto a substrate, wherein said paste contains hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder and a metal compound which is soluble in an electrolyte and selected from the group consisting of a metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide, in the proportion of 0.1 to 2.5 wt% based on the weight of said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder; and

a second step of placing said negative electrode and a positive electrode into a cell can with disposing a separator therebetween, and thereafter pouring an electrolyte into said cell can.

10. (Original): A method of manufacturing a metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising the steps of:

a first step of preparing a negative electrode by applying a paste containing a hydrogen absorbing alloy powder onto a substrate; and

a second step of placing said negative electrode and a positive electrode into a cell can with disposing a separator therebetween, and thereafter pouring an electrolyte into said cell can, wherein said electrolyte contains a metal compound which is soluble in said electrolyte and selected from the group consisting of a metal fluoride, a metal chloride, a metal iodide, and a metal sulfide in the proportion of 0.1 to 2.5 wt% based on the weight of said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder.

11. (Original): The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said metal fluoride is at least one metal fluoride selected from the group consisting of a cobalt fluoride, a nickel fluoride, an aluminum fluoride, and a copper fluoride.

12. (Original): The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said metal fluoride is  $\text{CoF}_2$  and/or  $\text{NiF}_2$ .

13. (Original): The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said metal chloride is a cobalt chloride and/or a nickel chloride.

14. (Original): The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said metal iodide is a cobalt iodide and/or a nickel iodide.

15. (Original): The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said metal sulfide is a cobalt sulfide and/or a nickel sulfide.

16. (Original): The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is selected from the group consisting of rare-earth element hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Fe based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, and Mg-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder.

17. (Original): The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder comprises hydrogen-absorbing alloy having a  $\text{CaCu}_5$  type crystal structure expressed by the general formula  $\text{MmNi}_a\text{Co}_b\text{Al}_c\text{Mn}_d$ , where  $a>0$ ,  $B>0$ ,  $c>0$ ,  $d\geq 0$ , and  $4.4 \leq a + b + c + d \leq 5.4$ .